

Post 9/1/66

Resolutions of Legion Stress Americanism

The American Legion convention yesterday adopted a 22-page list of resolutions on Americanism.

The resolutions ran the gamut from praise for J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI to a call for investigations of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Vietnam Day Committee and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

The report, which took 35 minutes to read, went largely unheard over the din made by the thousand delegates who were milling about the International Ballroom of the Washington Hilton. Two "no's" were discernible in the voice vote that followed the recitation.

Two brief floor actions followed adoption. The Alaska delegation succeeded in adding the words "it appears" to the resolution calling for congressional action to limit the power of the Supreme Court.

"Whereas," the amended resolution finally read, "it appears the Supreme Court in certain of its decisions has usurped the role of the Congress . . ."

The floor victory pleased the moderate Alaskans, who told reporters they had not been asked the Americanism committee hearings.

Sam Goldman of Minneapolis, didn't have such good

luck. He seized a microphone after the readings and asked for passage of a resolution warning the Post Office it was violating the law by publishing stamps showing the American Flag.

"Public Law 799," Goldman told National Chairman J. L. Eldon James, "forbids the flag being displayed on anything that can be discarded."

James told Goldman to put it in writing. Five minutes later, James had to admit he couldn't read Goldman's handwriting and that ended the debate on the Americanism committee report.

The Legion policy makers also called for stronger curbs of the Communist Party and urged prosecution of Yale Professor Staughon Lynd, Herbert Aptheker and others who have allegedly violated U.S. travel regulations.

Other resolutions asked for penalties for desecration of the flag and condemned persons advocating blood collections for the Vietcong.

The Vietnam Day Committee was scored for distributing 30,000 copies of a flier entitled "Attention All Military Personnel," which, the resolution said, "have mysteriously reached our men in Vietnam." The Justice Department was asked to investigate.

SNCC was roasted for having "teamed up with such groups as the W. E. B. Du Bois Clubs and . . . participating in such lawless demonstrations as the Berkeley

riots. . . ." The House Un-American Activities Committee, praised in a separate resolution, was asked to investigate SNCC.

A resolution scored the ACLU for its defense of "Communists and their sympathizers . . . and support to such movements which . . . are weakening statutes relating to obscenity and pornography."

Chairman Daniel J. O'Connor pointed out one error in the long report. "The resolution calling for the investigation of conditions in Yellow Springs, Ohio," said O'Connor, "should read 'conditions in Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.'"

The Ohio department of the Legion has been at odds over the scope of the investigation of the college town ever since 1962, a committee member said later. Yesterday's corrected resolution was tabled for another year.